United Nations

Report of the Committee on Conferences for 2000

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
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I. Calendar of conferences and meetings

A. Matters related to and inter-sessional departures from the approved calendar for 2000

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 54/248 of 23 December 1999, approved the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001 as submitted by the Committee on Conferences and amended by subsequent decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session. The approved calendar was issued as document A/AC.172/2000/2.

2. At its 373rd meeting, on 26 August 1994, the Committee had decided that requests for inter-sessional departures submitted to the Committee should, in future, be reviewed by the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, for subsequent action.

3. At its 379th meeting, on 23 March 1995, the Committee had agreed that proposed changes to the calendar that did not have programme budget implications could be dealt with by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee.

4. At its substantive session of 1995, the Committee had decided that requests for inter-sessional departures submitted to the Committee that involved a change of venue should be referred to the members for approval. Departures that involved other types of changes should, as the Committee had decided at its substantive session of 1994, be reviewed by the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, for subsequent action.

5. The requests submitted in 2000 for changes of venue or additional sessions and the action taken by the Committee are shown below.

Organ: International Civil Service Commission

Request: To convene its fifty-first session, from 3 to 20 April 2000, in Vienna rather than New York, since the International Atomic Energy Agency had agreed to host the session at the Vienna International Centre. The Commission had originally scheduled two sessions in New York in 2000, in April and July. Section I, paragraph 4 (g), of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 provides that, if more than one session is required in any one year, the Commission may accept an invitation from one of its participating organizations to hold its other session at the headquarters of that organization.

Action taken: Request approved.

Organ: United Nations Environment Programme

Request: To convene a sixth special session of its Governing Council, from 29 to 31 May 2000 at Malmö, Sweden, pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 53/242, in which the Assembly welcomes the proposal for a global environmental forum taking the form of a special session of the Governing Council in years in which the Council does not meet in regular session. The choice of venue is consistent with section I, paragraph 5, of Assembly resolution 40/243, since the Government of Sweden has agreed to defray the costs of the special session.

Action taken: Decision of the Governing Council noted.

Organ: Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

Request: To convene its thirty-fifth session, from 5 to 7 July 2000, at Geneva rather than New York in order to give members an opportunity to confer with participants in the Conference on Disarmament. Moreover, since the Board also serves as Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the Geneva venue permits Board members to be in close contact with the staff of the Institute.

Action taken: Request approved.

Organ: Commission on the Status of Women

Request: To convene a one-day resumed session to hold an election to replace the resigning Chairman and to adopt the recommendations for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

Action taken: Request approved.

Organ: Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world"

Request: To convene a resumed session, to be held in June 2000, in order to formalize the results of informal consultations on the draft text of the main outcome document for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly.

Action taken: Request approved.

B. Adoption of the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2001

Introduction and overview

6. At its 429th meeting, on 7 August 2000, the Committee on Conferences reviewed the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2001 (A/AC.172/2000/CRP.1 and Add.1).

7. The Committee also heard an oral report on the subject from the representative of the Secretariat.

Discussion

8. Concern was expressed at the hardship imposed on small delegations when meetings in related sectors were scheduled close to each other with little time for delegates to rest and prepare for the meeting of the next body. The representative of the Secretariat acknowledged that various constraints during 2000 had necessitated the scheduling of sessions of related intergovernmental bodies close to each other. Every effort would be made in the year ahead to avoid the recurrence of such situations through better coordination and more careful advance planning.

9. Clarification was sought and received from the Secretariat regarding the meetings of various organs of the United Nations for 2001.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it:

(a) Adopt the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2001, taking into account the various observations of the Committee;

(b) Authorize the Committee to make adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2001 that might become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

11. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, in drafting the revised 2001 calendar of conferences, the Secretariat had taken into account the arrangements referred to in General Assembly resolution 54/248, section A, paragraph 6, with regard to Id al-Adha, which falls on 5 March 2001, and Id al-Fitr, which falls on 16 December 2001 (to be observed on 17 December), and section A, paragraph 7, of the same resolution, concerning Orthodox Good Friday, which falls on 13 April 2001.

12. The Committee recommended that, when planning the calendar of conferences and meetings, every effort should be made to avoid simultaneous peak periods at the various duty stations and welcomed the efforts that were being made to promote more effective coordination with a view to achieving that objective.

13. The Committee requested the Secretariat to avoid scheduling meetings of intergovernmental bodies, such as the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Fifth Committee, too closely to each other.

C. Utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities

1. Meeting statistics of United Nations organs; consultations with or letters to bodies concerning utilization of the conference services available to them

Introduction and overview

14. Since 1983, the Committee on Conferences has studied a series of reports containing the meeting statistics and, in more recent years, the documentation statistics of a core sample of United Nations organs in New York, Geneva and Vienna. Statistics on bodies meeting in Nairobi have been included since 1998.

15. At its 429th meeting, on 7 August, the Committee reviewed the report of the Secretary-General on meeting statistics of United Nations organs that had met in 1999 (A/AC.172/2000/3/Rev.1).

16. In section B, paragraph 6, of its resolution 54/248 of 23 December 1999, the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Committee on Conferences to continue to consult with those bodies that consistently utilized less than the applicable benchmark figure of their allocated resources for the past three sessions, with a view to making appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources.

17. In paragraph 7 of the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Chairperson of the Committee on Conferences to transmit a letter to the chairpersons of all bodies that had utilized less than the applicable benchmark figure (80 per cent) of their allocated conference resources in the previous year, informing them of the problem and drawing their attention to the significant loss of meeting time, with a view to encouraging appropriate action on their part so as to improve the utilization of conference-servicing resources.

18. At the same meeting, the Committee considered an oral report made by the Chairperson on the actions taken pursuant to the requests set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 above.

Discussion

19. The view was expressed that the Secretariat should continue its efforts to ensure that unutilized conference resources were reallocated by sensitizing the chairpersons of intergovernmental bodies to the need to consistently utilize the applicable benchmark figure of their allocated resources. The Committee discussed a number of ways in which this goal could be accomplished. These included eliminating, as far as possible, avoidable cancellations of meetings; convening meetings in a timely manner, without a quorum, if necessary; scheduling, to the extent possible, informal consultations with interpretation services; cancelling scheduled meetings in advance, particularly if no delegation expresses a wish to speak, and holding working groups in their place; if time remains at the end of a scheduled meeting, considering other items or holding informal consultations; and making efforts to improve the accuracy with which the number of fully serviced meetings required is forecast.

20. It was acknowledged, however, that the working methods of committees varied significantly and that, in some cases, such as that of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the volume of work and documentation was so high that it was mandatory to use time available to review documentation, prepare for upcoming items and review the Committee's own draft report on an ongoing basis. Any approach to the problem should take account of such constraints.

Conclusions and recommendations

21. The Committee recommended that chairpersons institute time limits for the presentation of standard documents by the Secretariat.

22. The Committee took note with appreciation that the overall utilization factor for 1999 exceeded the benchmark of 80 per cent, that the utilization factor at Vienna was 88 per cent, the same as last year, and that the decrease of three percentage points for Geneva, to 84 per cent, was offset by a two percentage point gain in New York, to 79 per cent.

23. The Committee expressed the view that the utilization factor and the benchmark figure of 80 per cent was a goal to be achieved by each duty station separately.

24. The Committee noted, however, that in 1999 only 59 per cent of the bodies in the sample utilized 80 per cent or more of their available conference-

servicing resources and expressed its continuing concern at the low rate of compliance.

25. The Committee took note of the oral report by the Chairperson on the actions taken pursuant to the requests of the General Assembly set out in section B, paragraphs 6 and 7, of its resolution 54/248 concerning utilization of conference services and requested the Chairperson to continue to consult on its behalf with the chairpersons of bodies that had consistently utilized less than the applicable benchmark figure of their allocated resources for the past three sessions, with a view to making appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources.

26. The Committee noted with appreciation the new format for the report of the Secretary-General, which clearly indicated which bodies had made effective use of their conference resources and which had underutilized the resources allocated to them.

27. The Committee welcomed the incorporation of the statistics for Nairobi in the analytical tables contained in the report.

2. Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States

Introduction and overview

28. In section B, paragraph 8, of its resolution 54/248, the General Assembly noted the importance of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of sessional bodies, in view of the increased requests for meetings of regional and other major groups, and welcomed the fact that 83 per cent of the requests for interpretation services for such meetings were met, while 100 per cent of the requests for facilities only were met.

29. In paragraph 9 of the same resolution, the Assembly noted with concern the difficulties experienced by some Member States owing to the lack of conference services for some meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States.

30. In addition, in paragraph 10, the Assembly regretted that 17 per cent of the requests for interpretation services made by regional and other major groupings of Member States had not been met, while recognizing that meetings of Charter and mandated bodies must be serviced as a priority.

31. In paragraph 11, the Assembly decided to include all necessary resources in the budget for the biennium 2000-2001 to provide interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States upon request by those groupings, on an ad hoc basis, in accordance with established practice, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, through the Committee on Conferences, a report on the implementation of this decision.

32. In paragraph 12, the Assembly urged intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programme of work and to notify conference services, well in advance, of any cancellations so that unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of States.

33. At its 429th meeting, on 7 August, a representative of the Secretary-General presented a report on the question (A/55/182).

34. For the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, 100 per cent of the 41 requests for provision of conference services to regional and other major groupings were met in Geneva.

35. In New York, for the same period, 100 per cent of the 1,194 requests for facilities alone were met. The need for groups to meet outside traditional working hours continued. In fact, it escalated, owing to the increased volume of calendar and other intergovernmental meetings taking place within the traditional time-frame. As to provision of interpretation services, out of 321 requests, 269 were met, or a total of 84 per cent. At peak periods, however, some meetings were scheduled and provided with services outside of regular working hours, especially after 6 p.m.

36. The main difficulty in providing services during the previous 12-month period was caused by: (a) an increase in the number of scheduled meetings over previous years, including heavy activity prior to and in preparation for two special sessions of the General

Assembly; and (b) a growing tendency towards lengthier meetings of the Security Council and additional meetings of its working groups.

37. It was pointed out that the Secretariat's mandate with regard to its requests for resources for the servicing of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States was to do so while also observing the General Assembly decision that services be provided on an as-available basis. The Secretariat did not therefore specifically allocate servicing capacity or request resources for meetings of regional and other groups. Rather, requests were seen in the overall context of the resources required to service the intergovernmental machinery of the Organization.

Discussion

38. A suggestion was that the Committee's conclusions should reflect its satisfaction that the percentage of meetings held by regional and other major groupings that were provided with interpretation services had risen steadily, from 81 per cent during the period from July 1997 to June 1998 to 84 per cent for the same period in 1999/00.

39. The view was expressed that there should be no question of reducing the quantity or quality of interpretation services provided to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States. Such services were critical to the decision-making process of regional and other major groupings and therefore to the proper functioning of the Organization.

40. The suggestion was also made that the sharing of meeting resources with regional and other major groupings of Member States should be made into a procedural requirement for substantive bodies, in view of the critical importance to these groupings of consultations at United Nations Headquarters. On the other hand, the established practice, whereby priority was given to meetings of bodies on the calendar of conferences and meetings and of Charter bodies, should also be maintained.

41. Attention was drawn to the apparent inconsistency between the statement in paragraph 4 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/182) that services should be provided on an as-available basis and the decision of the General Assembly in section B, paragraph 11, of its resolution 54/248 to include all necessary resources in the budget for the biennium 2000-2001 to provide interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States upon request by those groupings. The representative of the Secretariat explained that the approach being followed was to make services available to meetings of regional and other major groupings on an ad hoc basis without requesting additional resources specifically for that purpose.

Conclusions and recommendations

42. The Committee recommended that duty stations away from Headquarters be encouraged to begin keeping statistics of requests for servicing of meetings.

43. The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General. It noted in particular that, while the percentage of meetings held by regional and other major groupings that were provided with interpretation services had risen steadily, from 81 per cent during the period from July 1997 to June 1998, to 83 per cent for the period from July 1998 to June 1999 and to 84 per cent for the period from July 1999 to June 2000, an even more flexible approach towards the scheduling of meetings and greater vigilance on the part of intergovernmental organizations in planning their meetings well in advance and, wherever possible, releasing unutilized services, could have resulted in a higher percentage of requests satisfied.

44. The Committee again urged intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programmes of work and to notify conference services well in advance of any cancellations so that conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of States.

45. The Committee noted with appreciation that services had been provided for 84 per cent of the meetings requested by regional and other major groupings, in spite of the difficulties experienced in the meetings programme in 2000.

46. The Committee requested the Chairperson to write to the chairpersons of intergovernmental bodies, bringing to their attention the need to anticipate requests for meetings of regional and other major groupings during their session and thus

allow for adequate consultations of regional and other major groupings if their work programme so requires.

3. Improved utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi

Introduction and overview

47. In section B of its resolution 54/248, the General Assembly expressed concern that the conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi were still underutilized; reiterated its call for their better utilization; and urged all subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Commission on Human Settlements, and encouraged Member States, intergovernmental bodies and regional and other major groupings to increase their use of the conference facilities at Nairobi. In paragraphs 14 to 17 of the same resolution, the Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to assist the aforementioned bodies in improving the situation, and requested him to report to it at its fifty-fifth session on the actions taken to that end.

48. As a proactive measure to facilitate greater utilization of the Nairobi conference facilities, the Assembly, in section B, paragraph 24, of resolution 54/248, decided to establish a permanent interpretation service at the United Nations Office at Nairobi no later than January 2001.

49. As an integral part of its 431st meeting, on 8 August, the Committee on Conferences arranged a videoconference, in which the Chief of Conference Services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the Officer-in-Charge of Administrative and Common Services and the Chief of the Translation and Editorial Service of the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Acting Director of the Conference Services Division of the United Nations Office at Geneva and other relevant managers at the respective duty stations participated. The Committee also considered the matter at its 432nd meeting, on 8 August.

50. During the videoconference, the Chief of Conference Services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi introduced the report of the Secretary-General on improved utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (A/55/259). The report described the initial steps that had been taken to implement the Assembly's decision to establish a permanent interpretation service at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and projected the effect of the creation of such a service as a factor in attracting more meeting activity to that duty station from 2001 onwards. The United Nations Office at Nairobi welcomed the close cooperation between it and the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services in implementing the decision of the General Assembly.

Discussion

51. Members of the Committee sought additional information as to the types of organizations and non-United Nations agencies that had approached the United Nations Office at Nairobi for the use of its conference services; whether the proposed structure of the staffing table for interpreters, that is, the fact that most appointments would be at the P-3 level, had had a negative impact on current efforts to attract candidates for the posts and the rate at which those posts were being filled; what the experience of the Office had been with regard to the availability of temporary assistance, given the overall reduction in budgetary allocations to conference services; whether any obstacles had been encountered in making the centre's facilities available for use on a commercial basis; whether the proposed establishment of a permanent interpretation service at the United Nations Office at Nairobi had led to any changes in the relations between the Office and the host Government; and as to whether the decision to de-link conference services from administration at the Office contravened the recent recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to the General Assembly that closer links be developed between conference services at duty stations away from Headquarters and the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services.

52. Replying to the questions raised, the Chief of Conference Services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi said that the news about the proposed establishment of a permanent interpretation service at the Office had generated a great deal of interest from potential users of the service and that specific enquiries had been received from a number of intergovernmental bodies and private sector entities. On the question of the filling of the interpreters' posts, he had been assured by Headquarters that most of them would be filled by the end of 2000. The level of the posts offered

did not constitute an obstacle to their being filled, since the Office was prepared to launch the service with candidates from the United Nations roster who had passed the competitive exam. Because of the charge-back system currently in place, the Office already had considerable experience in making its facilities available for use on a commercial basis. The establishment of a permanent interpretation service would have no legal implications for the host country agreement. The recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to the General Assembly was consistent with the current restructuring of the administrative and conference services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

53. Clarification was sought from the representative of the Secretariat as to whether, from a legal point of view, commercial use of the conference facilities at Nairobi might create a conflict with the diplomatic functions of the Office. The representative of the Secretariat pointed out that the main non-United Nations users of the facilities were environment-related treaty bodies. However, he undertook to provide a fuller response to the question at a later stage.

Conclusions and recommendations

54. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the creation of a permanent interpretation service at Nairobi offered great potential for Nairobi as a venue for United Nations conferences and meetings, and that the close cooperation between the Office and the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services in implementing the decision of the General Assembly was commendable.

55. The Committee took note of the statement in the report of the Secretary-General that further reporting on the impact of the creation of the interpretation service would be carried out as part of future reports on the utilization rate of conference facilities at Nairobi.

56. The Committee took note with appreciation of the efforts being made by the United Nations Office at Nairobi to attract more meetings to its facilities.

4. Improved coordination of conference services

Introduction and overview

57. At its substantive session of 1995, the Committee on Conferences decided to consider, on a biennial basis, the means to ensure improved coordination of conference services within the United Nations system. Moreover, it requested Conference Services to maintain an active dialogue with the substantive secretariats of intergovernmental bodies, providing statistics and information on previous performance, as well as guidelines on ways and means to enhance the utilization of conference-servicing resources. At its substantive session of 1996, the Committee endorsed the idea of the Secretariat to make the active dialogue a permanent coordination feature and had directed that such action should be taken at Headquarters, as well as at the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Office at Vienna.

58. In addition, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 51/211 A of 18 December 1996, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure closer cooperation between Headquarters, the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Office at Nairobi in order to improve the coordination of conference services. In paragraph 16 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretariat to engage on a regular basis in an active dialogue with Member States as a permanent feature at Headquarters, as well as at the United Nations offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, in order to improve the coordination of conference services.

59. Moreover, at its substantive session of 1998, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to review administrative instruction ST/AI/342 on guidelines for the preparation of host Government agreements falling under General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, so as to reflect the new organizational structure, which allowed for more effective coordination among the four United Nations conference-servicing centres in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, with a view to determining the most cost-effective option for the Organization, while ensuring the required standard of services. That request was reiterated in paragraph 37 of General Assembly resolution 53/208 A of 18 December 1998.

60. At its 431st meeting, on 8 August, the Committee on Conferences held a videoconference in which the

Chief of Conference Services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the Officer-in-Charge of Administrative and Common Services and the Chief of the Translation and Editorial Service of the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Acting Director of the Conference Services Division of the United Nations Office at Geneva and other relevant managers at the respective duty stations participated. The Committee also considered the matter at its 432nd meeting, on 8 August 2000.

61. At its 432nd meeting, on 8 August, the Committee also considered an oral report on the matter.

62. The Chief of Conference Services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi said that the high level of enthusiasm of the staff and the close coordination between the various departments, contributed to the centre's success. The proposal to separate conference services from administration would further enhance the profile of conference services.

63. In his introductory statement during the videoconference, the Officer-in-Charge of Administrative and Common Services and Chief of the Translation and Editorial Service of the United Nations Office at Vienna said that, although uneven, the workload trend for the various meeting services at the United Nations Office at Vienna, including translation and interpretation services, was generally upward. The potential for further efficiency gains at the duty station had been mostly exhausted and there were now increasing concerns about the quality of output and the need to find the right balance between budgetary resources and workload. Constraints included uneven workload distribution, late requests and modifications to and cancellations of requests, an unfavourable post structure that did not offer attractive career prospects to staff and the imbalance between workload and available personnel and budgetary resources.

64. The Acting Director of the Conference Services Division of the United Nations Office at Geneva prefaced her introductory remarks by commenting further on the situation of vacancy rates for United Nations language professionals in general. She said that the problem must be viewed in terms of supply and demand in the market for such services. Interpreters, particularly those interpreting from Russian into French and English, were in very short supply and the Organization should urgently consider mounting its own training programmes to ensure a steady supply of suitable candidates.

65. Coordination between conference services and the bodies that they served was absolutely essential, particularly at the decision-making and operational levels. A good example of such coordination was the development of a single Internet web site to provide information on the meetings of all international bodies in Geneva scheduled to be held in a given quarter. A daily calendar of meetings was already available.

66. Inter-agency coordination was best reflected in the sharing of common services, notably in the area of publishing, between the various agencies of the United Nations system based in Geneva.

67. The Chief of the Technological Innovations Programme Section at the United Nations Office at Geneva added that the introduction of technological innovations had greatly enhanced the efficiency of the Office's operations. The latest version of the Document Records, Information and Tracking System (DRITS), for example, had become a valuable management tool. Speech recognition programmes had been successfully tested and a number of them were currently in use in the various translation services.

Discussion

68. Questions were asked about the current level of user satisfaction with the optical disk system, the overall vacancy rate, the experience of the Office with the use of temporary assistance during peak periods and the reasons for the high vacancy rates at the United Nations Office at Vienna.

69. In replying to the questions raised, the Officer-in-Charge of Administrative and Common Services and Chief of the Translation and Editorial Service of the United Nations Office at Vienna said that there had been improvements in the performance of the optical disk system at the procedural level, but no change in the platform used. On the subject of the vacancy rate, by the end of 2000 the vacancy rate for translators was expected to decline to 2.2 per cent, but little change was expected in the situation regarding interpreters. The Office looked forward to the cooperation of Headquarters in that area.

70. The Chief of the Interpretation and Meetings Section added that none of the interpreter posts at the United Nations Office at Vienna matched the job

description of a P-3 interpreter. Posts would have to be reclassified if there was to be any hope of attracting and retaining qualified candidates.

71. Noting the information presented by the United Nations Office at Vienna, the view was expressed that the Secretary-General, when preparing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, should consider reclassifying interpreter posts at duty stations with small staffing tables so as to attract qualified candidates for vacancies.

72. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services added that the lack of incentives and career prospects also helped to explain the high vacancy rates at the United Nations Office at Vienna, as the conditions there were not as attractive as in New York and Geneva. Efforts were continuing, however, to make the duty station more attractive to staff by providing incentives and implementing the system of managed assignments.

73. Questions were asked about the potential for common services in areas other than publishing in Geneva and whether it was planned to embark on a new experiment in remote interpretation between Geneva and Nairobi and, if so, within what time frame.

74. Information was provided to the effect that publishing was the activity that best lent itself to inter-agency coordination. It was a clear product with clear competition from non-United Nations sources and a great deal of duplication existed in that area among United Nations bodies.

75. A number of members expressed concern both at the apparent inability of the Organization to attract and retain qualified language professionals and at the low percentage of candidates who passed the competitive language examinations. It was suggested that consideration be given to the organization of internal training programmes for potential candidates for recruitment. Other members suggested that a comprehensive study be carried out of all aspects of the situation of language professionals in the United Nations system, including remuneration and conditions of service.

76. The Committee was also informed that the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services was working on common approaches to technological advances with a view to establishing a lead duty station for some projects and sharing information on ongoing activities in all areas. In the area of remote interpretation, for example, the lead role will be played by Headquarters, where the final arrangements concerning the choice of particular meetings and servicing combinations for future experiments will continue to be made.

Conclusions and recommendations

77. The Committee on Conferences took note with appreciation of the oral report by the Secretariat on improved coordination of conference services.

78. The Committee encouraged efforts to promote a more coordinated approach within Conference Services aimed at providing services from all duty stations more effectively and efficiently.

79. The Committee welcomed the inclusion of the videoconference as an integral part of its session and looked forward to similar conferences in the future.

80. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly as soon as possible analysing such problems as may exist related to recruitment in language services at all duty stations and proposing actions to address them.

81. The Committee urged the Secretary-General to implement the system of incentives to attract language staff to duty stations with high vacancy rates, as noted by the General Assembly in section D, paragraph 7, of its resolution 54/248; to report on the concrete measures taken and to develop further a system of incentives to attract language staff to duty stations with high vacancy rates.

82. The Committee requested that it be kept informed of the workload statistics at the various duty stations.

83. The Committee looked forward to the revision of administrative instruction ST/AI/342, and requested the Secretary-General to take into account the administrative arrangements with respect to the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

5. Improved utilization of conference facilities at the regional centres

Introduction and overview

84. In section B, paragraph 27, of its resolution 54/248, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure an increase in the utilization of the regional centres in future work programmes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

85. In addition, in paragraph 120 of its resolution 54/249, the Assembly expressed deep concern about the underutilization of the conference centres in Bangkok and Addis Ababa, and requested the Secretary-General to develop and implement a strategy for increasing their use, and to report thereon to the General Assembly by the end of its fifty-fourth session.

86. At its 429th meeting, on 7 August, the Committee heard an oral report on action taken by the Secretariat in compliance with the above-mentioned requests, pending completion of the final report.

Discussion

87. It was pointed out by the representative of the Secretariat that the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services had little control over the activities of the conference centres in Bangkok and Addis Ababa. Although the report that had been requested of the Secretary-General was still being prepared, and would be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, the conclusion was already emerging that a coincidence of constraints was responsible for the low rate of utilization of the conference facilities at the two centres. In both cases, there had been uncertainty as to whether it was appropriate to use the centres for non-United Nations activities and for commercial purposes.

88. The representative of the Secretariat adverted to a memorandum from the Legal Counsel to the Executive Secretary of the regional commission in Bangkok to the effect that activities were permissible in the centre's facilities only if they were of a non-commercial nature and consistent with the purposes and principles of the Organization. Clarification was sought as to whether the opinion of the Legal Counsel was still valid, in view of the updated guidelines on the use of the centre. The representative of the Secretariat responded that the legal opinion might have been superseded by events and by decisions of the General Assembly.

89. Furthermore, until very recently, no resources had been earmarked for promoting the centres as venues for non-United Nations events, and the post structure at both duty stations had not included positions specifically assigned to the management of the centres.

90. The view was expressed that the Committee should consider the activities of the conference centres in Bangkok and Addis Ababa separately from those of the conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, which operated under a different status and a specific set of constraints.

Conclusions and recommendations

91. The Committee on Conferences regretted that the report on the improved utilization of conference facilities at the regional centres was not yet available.

92. The Committee took note of the oral report on the subject presented by the representative of the Secretariat.

93. The Committee agreed to keep the item under review.

D. Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243

Introduction and overview

94. At its 429th meeting, on 7 August, the Committee considered a note by the Secretariat (A/AC.172/2000/CRP.3) to which were annexed requests from subsidiary bodies for exceptions to be made to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, in which the Assembly decided that no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly would be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

95. In accordance with the procedure established by the Committee, the requests included explanations as to: (a) why the bodies wished to meet; (b) why they had not completed their work by the deadline of 1 September, as laid down in section I, paragraph 6, of

General Assembly resolution 40/243; (c) why it was necessary to meet during the session of the Assembly; and (d) how many meetings would be required. Statistical information was also provided on the number of meetings, if any, that the bodies concerned had held during the fifty-fourth session of the Assembly and the efficiency with which they had utilized the resources made available to them.

Discussion

96. Committee members expressed concern about the inefficient use of conference services by some bodies meeting during the main part of the General Assembly session, as reflected in the statistics on late starting and early ending provided in section II of the annex to the note by the Secretariat, and asked the Chairman to draw the attention of those bodies to the importance of making better use of available resources. Noting that the work programme of certain bodies, notably the United Nations Development Programme, seemed to necessitate meetings in the autumn on a regular basis, the Committee decided to remain seized of the matter.

Conclusions and recommendations

97. The Committee on Conferences recommended to the General Assembly that it explicitly authorize the following bodies to meet in New York during the main part of its fifty-fifth session, on the understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated as facilities and services became available so that the activities of the Assembly itself would not be adversely affected and that every effort would be made to make more efficient use of conference services:

(a) Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund;

(b) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;

(c) Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund;

(d) Committee on Relations with the Host Country;

(e) Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

(f) Preparatory Committee for the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development.

II. Documentation and publication-related matters

A. Distribution of documentation

Introduction and overview

98. The General Assembly, in its resolution 54/248 of 23 December 1999, reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation was available in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents simultaneously in the six official languages; urged intergovernmental bodies, when feasible, to become more actively involved in rationalizing their meeting schedules in order to ensure the timely distribution of all related documentation; and requested the Secretary-General to submit proposals based on the reviews through the Committee to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

99. At its 430th meeting, on 7 August, the Committee considered a note by the Secretariat (A/AC.172/2000/6) containing proposals aimed at improving the timely issuance of pre-session documentation, the first two requiring action by the Secretariat and the remaining four requiring action by intergovernmental organs. The proposals were as follows:

- *Proposal 1.* Three months prior to the opening of the session, a planning meeting or an equivalent exchange of communications should be held between the servicing secretariat and the substantive department, on the one hand, and representatives of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conferences Services, on the other, to review documentation forecasts, bearing in mind the 10-week rule for document submission and the requirement to issue a document on the status of documentation.
- *Proposal 2.* Substantive departments should prepare forecasts of the volume of documentation under preparation and be required, to the extent possible, to keep the length of their submissions within the limits of their original forecast. Such forecasts should be presented to the Department

of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services and to the servicing secretariats in conjunction with the planning meeting.

- *Proposal 3.* In order to minimize the negative impact of late submissions by one intergovernmental organ on the timely issuance of documents for other organs, late submissions could be processed by rescheduling the processing of other documents submitted by the same department for consideration in the same body.

- *Proposal 4.* Intergovernmental organs should review their reporting cycles, and periodicity may be introduced in the reporting in the form of requesting quarterly or biannual reports instead of annual ones.

- *Proposal 5.* Intergovernmental organs may wish to authorize substantive departments to prepare reports and submit them for processing in accordance with the 10-week rule, even if all the relevant information is not available and, if it is necessary to include additional information, subsequently submit addendums to the parent document.

- *Proposal 6.* While reviewing the status of documentation in preparation for the sessions, secretariats and bureaux of intergovernmental bodies may wish to decide, in cases of recurrent late submissions, to adjust the proposed programme of work and, as appropriate, adjust the order of agenda items and delay or postpone consideration of items or documents.

Discussion

100. Delegations expressed the view that the proposals represented an excellent initiative and deserved support. It was suggested that the initiative could go even further, for example, in promoting close collaboration between the bureaux of intergovernmental bodies and author departments with regard to rescheduling. Reference was made to the requirement that author departments explain in a footnote why their submissions did not comply with the 10-week rule. A compendium of guidelines on procedures for effective and efficient use of conference services was thought to be a valuable tool for this and other areas of conference servicing.

Conclusions and recommendations

101. The Committee welcomed the development of the proposals and supported the implementation of proposals 1 and 2 by the Secretariat. It endorsed proposals 3, 4, 5 and 6 and recommended to the General Assembly that they be formulated as recommendations to intergovernmental bodies.

102. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to prepare a compendium of guidelines on procedures for effective and efficient use of conference services and urged it to continue to draft proposals aimed at improving the timely issuance of pre-session documentation.

B. Compliance with the regulations concerning page limits

103. The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/208 B of 18 December 1998, stressed the need for compliance with the existing page limits for documents; invited all intergovernmental bodies to consider, where appropriate, the possibility of further reducing the length of their reports from 32 to 20 pages; called upon the Secretariat to make its procedures for obtaining waivers to the 16-page rule more rigorous, while maintaining the necessary degree of flexibility, with a view to encouraging author departments to reduce the length of their submissions while maintaining high standards of quality; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Conferences, every two years, updated information on the number and length of documents.

104. At its 430th meeting, on 7 August, the Committee considered a note by the Secretariat on the matter (A/AC.172/2000/CRP.2). In introducing the report, the representative of the Secretariat noted that, although the number of documents above the page limits accounted for only 10 per cent of the total, they constituted 54 per cent of the total workload. That meant that even a moderate reduction in the number of documents exceeding the page limits could significantly reduce the workload; hence the importance of making waiver procedures more rigorous.

105. He also reported that the double-column format was now being used in all six official languages.

106. He noted that, in future reports, page ranges might be combined to cover documents of 21 to 32 pages and of 33 to 100 pages, and that data for the previous two years might be presented in the same tables for comparison.

Discussion

107. The view was expressed that one way to reduce the length of documents would be to eliminate repetitive background information and to refer instead to previous documents on the same subject matter. End-users could establish an archive of basic reference documents, and only new material would need to be reflected in the most recent report. It was noted, however, that that approach might not be feasible for every type of document.

108. It was suggested, on the one hand, that the same approach might also be taken for resolutions, in which, in some cases, a large percentage of material was repeated from year to year. On the other hand, it was pointed out that, although possibly repetitive, much of the material in resolutions was politically sensitive, and it was necessary to reflect the consensus reached.

Recommendations and conclusions

109. The Committee noted that, although the number and proportion of documents issued in accordance with the established and desirable page limits had increased, compliance with the limitation targets for both intergovernmental and Secretariat documents continued to be only partial.

110. The Committee further noted that documents that were significantly in excess of the page limit, especially when submitted late, created an additional burden for the processing services and could jeopardize timely issuance and compromise quality. Efforts to further reduce the length of documents should therefore be concentrated on those cases in which page limits were applicable or desirable, since such documents made up 50 per cent of all documentation and accounted for close to 80 per cent of their total volume.

C. United Nations publications

111. The Committee was informed that the report requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 7 of its resolution 54/259 of 7 April 2000 in connection with its request that the Secretary-General implement the provision contained in annex II, paragraph 45, of Assembly resolution 52/220 was not yet available because the Department of Public Information was intent on presenting a concrete, well-developed proposal.

112. The Committee regretted that the report was not yet available and expressed the hope that it would receive the report at the earliest possible opportunity.

III. Translation- and interpretation-related matters

A. Use of remote interpretation

Introduction and overview

113. At its substantive session of 1999, the Committee on Conferences commended the efforts of the Secretariat to develop a system of remote interpretation and looked forward to additional experiments in the future. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to further refine the cost considerations of remote interpretation, taking into account not only technological possibilities but also the cost benefits of remote interpretation, including the relative cost advantages of the different conference centres that were likely providers of remote interpretation services, and to report thereon.

114. In its resolution 54/248, the General Assembly decided that, in the absence of an Assembly decision to the contrary, the use of remote interpretation would not constitute an alternative to the current institutionalized system of interpretation and that the use of remote interpretation should not affect the quality of interpretation or in itself lead to any further reduction in language posts, nor would it affect the equal treatment of the six official languages. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to keep under review the introduction and use of any new technology, in particular remote interpretation, and to report thereon to the Assembly on a regular basis.

115. In his 1999 report on developments in the field of remote interpretation (A/54/176), the Secretary-General announced that an experiment involving the servicing from Geneva of a full-scale intergovernmental meeting, with six languages, to be

held at Nairobi, would take place as early as possible in 2000.

116. At its 429th meeting, on 7 August, the Committee on Conferences considered the report of the Secretary-General on remote interpretation (A/55/134), which concerned the organization of the Geneva-Nairobi experiment.

117. The selection of the duty stations involved in the experiment was based on the availability of interpretation staff and vacant conference rooms equipped with interpretation booths at Geneva, as well as the possibility of enhancing the use of existing meeting facilities at Nairobi, where permanent interpreters were not yet posted.

118. Preparations for the experiment, involving extensive arrangements, started in early January 2000. By 14 March, however, it had been concluded that it was not prudent to make substantial financial commitments or to undertake further technical and staffing preparations. A slippage of just a few days in any activity would mean that considerable resources would have been spent and the technical set-up would not have been in place for the experiment to take place between 8 and 12 May. In the absence of another scheduled meeting at Nairobi suitable for the experiment, preparations had been suspended.

Discussion

119. Understanding was expressed for the reasons that had forced the Secretariat to discontinue the experiment of servicing from Geneva a meeting held at Nairobi, and members expressed the hope that the Secretariat would not be discouraged from further efforts in that field.

120. Attention was drawn to the potential benefits to be derived from the introduction of remote interpretation at all duty stations, including the smaller centres, which could become both providers and recipients of the service.

121. It was suggested that consideration be given to the use of remote interpretation to alleviate the scarcity of interpretation resources at Headquarters, by resorting to evening teams working from European duty stations and to the use of remote interpretation for meetings of substantive bodies as well as regional groups.

122. The need to consider the possible hidden costs of remote interpretation was underlined and attention was drawn to the need to look at all aspects of the proposal, including the reality of the existing deficiencies in the technical capacities at some duty stations.

123. Additional information was sought with regard to the connectivity test that had been conducted in the last week in January 2000. The representative of the Secretariat explained that it had been a test of equipment and not of remote interpretation. The test had been designed to verify the compatibility of the sound transmitted via satellite with the sound installations in the conference rooms at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

Conclusions and recommendations

124. The Committee on Conferences took note of the report of the Secretary-General on remote interpretation (A/55/134) and requested the Secretariat to keep it informed of future activities in the field of remote interpretation.

125. The Committee reiterated its understanding that the introduction of remote interpretation was not intended to replace traditional interpretation systems without the explicit approval of the General Assembly.

126. The Committee requested that future reports on the matter include an analysis of the cost of any proposed system and of its impact on the working conditions of interpreters.

127. The Committee recommended that remote interpretation not be confined to specific duty stations, that each duty station be considered both as recipient and provider and that the Secretariat explore every opportunity for its introduction.

B. Utilization of new technologies

Introduction and overview

128. In section D, paragraph 1, of its resolution 54/248 of 23 December 1999, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue the efforts to utilize new technologies, such as computer-assisted translation, remote translation, terminology databases and speech recognition, in the six official languages so as to enhance further the productivity of conferences,

and to keep the General Assembly informed of the introduction and use of any other new technology.

129. At its 430th meeting, on 7 August, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of new technologies (A/AC.172/2000/5).

Discussion

130. Attention was drawn to the ongoing technology projects in computer-assisted translation, remote translation, speech recognition, terminology databases, electronic referencing and use of digital audio recording technology, and to the fact that, although investment and maintenance costs (procurement and maintenance of software licences, contracting of training and technical support services) were modest, technology projects entailed hidden costs to the Organization in terms of staff time spent on training, software customization and file processing or conversion.

131. The hope was expressed that future reports of the Secretary-General on this subject would contain more reporting on coordination in the area of technological innovation. Clarification was sought regarding the suggestion in paragraph 18 of the report of the Secretary-General that proximity might be one of the criteria for the allocation of remote translation responsibilities. Information was also sought about the feasibility of using file transfer protocol (FTP) sites at duty stations other than Headquarters and the United Nations Office at Geneva.

132. Some members were impressed by the level of in-house expertise and wondered whether any tangible recognition was given to these skills. Additional information was sought with regard to the possible hidden costs of remote translation.

133. In response to the questions posed, the representative of the Secretariat said that the references to coordination in the report had deliberately been kept vague so that the various duty stations could themselves report on their experiences and initiatives. The Organization had no formal system in place to reward linguists who developed expertise in particular areas of technology. The hidden costs of remote translation consisted mainly of the cost of transmitting the documents and was therefore very modest. FTP technology could be implemented at minimal cost at other conference-servicing centres involved in remote translation.

Conclusions and recommendations

134. The Committee on Conferences welcomed the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General and the efforts that were being made to introduce new technologies in the area of conference services.

135. The Committee encouraged the Secretary-General to continue those efforts and requested that the Committee be kept informed of the progress made.

136. The Committee welcomed the proposal to extend the service of dedicated FTP sites to other conference centres, in view of the greater speed and reliability which they offered and their low cost.

137. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the work of the staff, particularly in the Translation and Editorial Division, to develop and implement new technologies, often on a voluntary basis.

IV. Information technology

Introduction and overview

138. In its resolution 54/82 B of 6 December 1999, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop and enhance the United Nations web sites in all official languages of the Organization and requested him to pursue those efforts and to develop proposals for achieving modular parity among the official languages of the Organization in a cost-effective manner and with a focus on textual content.

139. Recognizing the importance of parity among all the United Nations official languages, the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/249 of 23 December 1999 on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, decided to convert three positions relating to web sites in Arabic, Chinese and Russian into established posts.

140. At its 432nd meeting, on 8 August, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on multilingual development, maintenance and enrichment of United Nations web sites (A/AC.198/2000/7-A/AC.172/2000/4).

141. In introducing the report, the representative of the Department of Public Information said that the Committee on Information had asked the Department

to elaborate on the further steps required and resources needed for an incremental, or modular, approach to achieving fully linguistic parity. In order to provide the secure base required for the effective maintenance of the web sites, the Department had proposed an additional eight Professional and five General Service posts, at a biennial cost of some $2.5 million. That amount did not include the infrastructure and technical support requirements of the Information Technology Services Division of the Department of Management, nor did it include the costs to the substantive departments of developing content.

142. Much had already been done to enhance multilingualism in the web sites within existing resources, including the posting of General Assembly resolutions, major Security Council documents and major reports of the Secretary-General, and the creation of new sites, such as that for the Millennium Assembly, in all the official languages. The Department was also redesigning the top layers of the United Nations home page to enhance navigability and accessibility in all languages.

Discussion

143. The view was expressed that the tremendous growth in the use of the United Nations web sites — which had over 20 million hits in January 2000 — was evidence of the great success of the initiative. The fact that the original graphic design had withstood the test of time was proof of its high quality. Although so much had been done through temporary and ad hoc arrangements, the time had now come for a more coordinated approach.

Conclusions and recommendations

144. The Committee took note of the reports of the Secretary-General and commended the efforts of the Department of Public Information in developing the United Nations web sites.

145. The Committee noted that it had now become necessary to consider Internet activity as an integral part of the work programme of the Organization. It was essential for the full multilingual development, maintenance and enrichment of the web sites that each content-providing office include web-specific content to be made available on the web sites, as part of its regular programme of activity, and make budgetary provisions accordingly.

146. The Committee took note of the electronic display of the meetings programme at the United Nations Office at Geneva and encouraged the Secretariat to develop such a display at other duty stations.

V. Working methods of the Committee

A. Review of the procedure on the participation of observers

Introduction and overview

147. The General Assembly, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 53/208 A of 18 December 1998, invited the Committee on Conferences to consider the question of the participation of observers in the work of the Committee in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure of the Assembly.

148. At its 423rd meeting, on 1 September 1999,[1] the Committee agreed on its procedure regarding the participation of observers in the work of the Committee.

149. At its organizational session, on 27 April (427th meeting), the Committee reviewed the current procedure and decided to do so again at its substantive session.

150. At its 432nd meeting, on 8 August, the Committee reviewed the procedure. It was informed that announcements had been placed in the *Journal* sufficiently in advance of meetings of the Committee inviting non-members to participate as observers, and that the Secretariat had received three written requests from Member States to participate as observers at its meetings since 1 September 1999. No observers had attended the Committee's 2000 session, but there was a significant increase in the attendance by members at the session. The Committee decided that the procedures set out at its 1999 session should remain in place and need not be reviewed further.

B. Review of work

151. The Committee reviewed a table comparing its recommendations with the corresponding General Assembly resolutions on pattern of conferences

adopted in the past three years. It noted with satisfaction that, on average, three quarters of its recommendations had been included in the resolutions and that the wording formulated by the Committee had generally been retained.

VI. Organizational matters

A. Membership

152. The General Assembly, in its resolution 43/222 B of 21 December 1988, decided to retain the Committee on Conferences as a permanent subsidiary organ. Pursuant to the provisions of that resolution, in 2000 the Committee was composed of the following Member States: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Chile, Equatorial Guinea, France, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Nepal, Philippines, Russian Federation and United States of America.

B. Officers

153. At its organizational session for 2000, the Committee elected the following officers to serve in 2000:

Chairman:

Valeria Maria **González Posse** (Argentina)

Vice-Chairmen:

Vano **Matchavariani** (Georgia)
Koji F. X. **Yamagiwa** (Japan)
Thomas B. **Amolo** (Kenya)

Rapporteur:

Peter **Van De Velde** (Belgium)

154. At its 427th meeting, on 27 April, the Committee agreed in principle that the Chairman would undertake informal consultations with a view to determining the composition of the Committee's Bureau in 2001.

155. At the first meeting of its substantive session (429th meeting), the Committee elected Yoichi Niiya (Japan) as Vice-Chairman to fill the vacant post left by the resignation of Mr. Yamagiwa.

C. Organization of work

156. At its organizational session (427th meeting), the Committee agreed to follow the guidelines adopted in 1994 and 1995 with regard to consideration of inter-sessional departures from the approved calendar of conferences and to meet as required to review proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings during sessions of the General Assembly.

157. At the same meeting it decided to review the procedure for the participation of observers at its substantive session in 2000.

158. At its 428th meeting, on 25 July, the Committee met to complete its consideration of the proposal to hold its 2000 substantive session at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, as requested by the General Assembly in section B, paragraph 23, of its resolution 54/248. The Committee on Conferences, while in favour of holding its session at Nairobi, was intent that full attendance by its members should be ensured for the session, which would require a decision by the Assembly regarding the applicability of its resolution 1798 (XVII) on the system of travel and subsistence allowances to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations. Since the Assembly, by its decision 54/482 of 15 June 2000, had postponed consideration of the draft resolution before it on the matter pending receipt of a statement of the programme budget implications, the Committee decided to confirm the dates and arrangements for its substantive session at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 9 August 2000, retaining the possibility of additional meetings on 10 August.

159. The Committee convened its substantive session from 7 to 9 August 2000 (429th to 433rd meetings).

160. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services addressed the Committee at the opening of its organizational and substantive sessions.

D. Programme of work

161. At its organizational session for 1999, held on 21 April, the Committee had requested the Secretariat to submit a draft agenda for 2000 to the Committee at its organizational session for 2000 (A/AC.172/2000/L.1). At its organizational session for 2000 (427th and 428th meetings), on 27 April and 25 July, the Committee

adopted the proposed agenda (A/AC.172/2000/1) with the addition of sub-item 2 (b) (vi), entitled "Improved utilization of conference facilities at the regional centres", and item 6, entitled "Review of the procedure on the participation of observers". At the same meeting, the Committee requested the Secretariat to submit a draft agenda for 2001 at the organizational session to be held early in 2001.

VII. Work of the Committee during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, from 14 September to 23 December 1999

162. The Committee was seized of the following requests:

Committee: Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Request: To be provided with summary records of its meetings, as called for in paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.42/Rev.1, which would necessitate a waiver of paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 37/14 C.

Action taken: Questioned the need for providing summary records to the Conference and its Preparatory Committee, especially in view of the General Assembly resolutions and guidelines on the control and limitation of documentation, but noted that the provisions of summary records would benefit smaller delegations, as well as civil society. Suggested four options: to provide summary records for the last two sessions of the Preparatory Committee, for the first and last sessions of the Preparatory Committee, for the Conference alone or for those meetings at which decisions would be taken. The last option was approved by the Fifth Committee and adopted by the Assembly.

Organ: Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Request: To convene 10 events during the biennium 2000-2001 away from New York, the substantive headquarters of the Committee. The Committee's mandate includes the organization of meetings in various regions with the participation of all sectors of the international community. Although the events are not as a rule hosted by Governments, since the Committee's pattern of meetings is consistent with past practice, provision had been made in the relevant section of the proposed programme budget for conference services for the programme of work for 2000-2001.

Action taken: The events were included on the calendar of conferences.

Organ: Preparatory Committee for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Request: To convene two meetings of the Preparatory Committee, in the third quarter of 2000 and the fourth quarter of 2001, in New York rather than Geneva, since the New York venue would facilitate greater participation by the least developed countries, most of which are represented in New York and many of which do not have a resident mission in Geneva, and to hold three expert-level preparatory meetings at the venue deemed most appropriate. Provision has already been made in the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001.

Action taken: Recommended to the General Assembly that it should grant an exception to section I, paragraph 4, of its resolution 40/243.

VIII. Other business

163. Under this agenda item, the Committee, at its 429th meeting, on 7 August, requested the Secretariat to bring to the attention of all intergovernmental bodies the availability of drafting methods combining large-screen projection and electronic text processing.

164. The Committee, at its 433rd meeting, on 9 August, welcomed the consistent application of performance standards to the analysis of the work of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services and the refinement of those standards and the resulting improvement in the ability of the Department to identify the root causes of problems in conference service delivery and to develop targeted, effective and cost-efficient solutions.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/54/32), para. 172.

Annex

Draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations and of the principal organs of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency for 2001

The following abbreviations are used in the present annex:

In the column headed "Organ"

ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNU	United Nations University
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

In the column headed "Membership"

G	Governments
E	Experts
ST	Secretariat or secretariats

In the column headed "Servicing"

I	Interpretation
T	Translation
PV	Verbatim records
SR	Summary records
A	Arabic
C	Chinese
E	English
F	French
R	Russian
S	Spanish

A. Draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations, 2001

(as at August 2000)

Organ		*Date (2001)*	*Location*	*Membership*	*Servicing*[a]			*Periodicity*
1.	Military Staff Committee [Charter]	5 January, once every fortnight thereafter	New York	5 G	I (CEFR)	T	PV	Every second Friday
2.	Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, second session [General Assembly resolution 54/54 V]	8-19 January	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR[b]	
3.	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, resumed 2000 session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1296 (XLIV) and decisions 1995/304 and 1997/297][c]	8-19 January	New York	19 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
4.	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, fifty-eighth session [General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX)]	8-26 January	New York[d]	18 E	I (CEFRS)	T	SR	Two sessions per year
5.	Committee on the Rights of the Child, twenty-sixth session [General Assembly resolutions 44/25, 47/112 and 49/211]	8-26 January	Geneva	10 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	Three sessions per year
6.	Economic and Social Council, election of Bureau [Charter]	9 January	New York	54 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	
7.	UNCTAD, Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, thirty-seventh session [UNCTAD resolution 114 (V) and Trade and Development Board decision 156 (XVII)]	15-19 January	Geneva	[e]	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One or two sessions per year
8.	Post-Phase V Working Group on Reimbursement of Contingent-Owned Equipment [General Assembly resolution 54/19 B]	15-26 January	New York	59 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
9.	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, twenty-fourth session [General Assembly resolutions 34/180 and 51/68]	15 January-2 February	New York	23 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	Two sessions per year
10.	Conference on Disarmament, first part [General Assembly resolutions 1722 (XVI), S-10/2 and 34/83 L]	15 January-23 March	Geneva	61 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	PV	One session in three parts per year
11.	Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, seventh session [General Assembly resolution 46/122]	22-25 January	Geneva	5 E	I (EFS)	T	–	One session per year
12.	UNICEF, Executive Board, first regular session [General Assembly resolutions 57 (I) and 48/162]	22-26 January	New York	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	

Organ		*Date (2001)*	*Location*	*Membership*	*Servicing*[a]			*Periodicity*
13.	Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas [Economic and Social Council decision 1997/292]	22-26 January	New York	41 G	I (EFS)	T	–	One session every four years
14.	UNCTAD, Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development [Trade and Development Board decision at its thirteenth executive session (8 July 1996) and General Assembly resolution 51/167]	22-26 January	Geneva	[e]	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
15.	Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP [General Assembly resolution 52/12 B]	29 January	New York	36 G/36 G/ 36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
16.	Committee on the Rights of the Child, Pre-sessional Working Group [General Assembly resolutions 44/25, 47/112 and 49/211]	29 January-2 February	Geneva	5 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	Three sessions per year
17.	Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly in 2001 for Follow-up to the World Summit for Children, second substantive session [General Assembly resolution 54/93][d]	29 January-2 February	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
18.	Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA, first regular session [General Assembly resolutions 2029 (XX) and 48/162]	29 January-9 February	New York	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
19.	Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group, substantive session [General Assembly resolution 48/42]	29 January-23 February	New York	To be determined	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
20.	Economic and Social Council, organizational session [Charter]	30 January-2 February	New York	54 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	One session per year
21.	Ad Hoc Group of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, twenty-third session [General Assembly resolution 49/86]	January (3 weeks)	Geneva	141 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
22.	Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters [General Assembly resolution 37/99 K]	January (4 days)	New York	20 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	Two sessions per year
23.	United Nations Staff Pension Committee [General Assembly resolution 248 (III)]	January (1 meeting)	New York	12 E	–	–	–	Three sessions of one meeting each per year
24.	Commission on Human Rights, open-ended working group on the right to development [Economic and Social Council decision 2000/246]	January/ February (1 week)	Geneva	53 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	

Organ		*Date (2001)*	*Location*	*Membership*	*Servicing*[a]			*Periodicity*
25.	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Pre-sessional Working Group [General Assembly resolutions 45/124, 47/94 and 51/68]	5-9 February	New York	4 E	I (EFS)	T	–	Two sessions per year
26.	Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on Situations [Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/41]	5-9 February	Geneva	5 E	I (EFRS)	T	–	One session per year
27.	International Narcotics Control Board, seventieth session [Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, article 11]	5-9 February	Vienna	13 E	I (AEFRS)	T	–	Two or three sessions per year
28.	UNEP, Governing Council, twenty-first session [General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) and 42/185]	5-9 February	Nairobi	58 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session every two years
29.	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions [General Assembly resolution 173 (II)]	6 February-30 March	New York	16 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	Three sessions per year
30.	UNCTAD, Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues [Trade and Development Board decision at its thirteenth executive session (8 July 1996) and General Assembly resolution 51/167]	12-16 February	Geneva	[c]	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
31.	Commission on Human Settlements, eighteenth session [Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/1 and General Assembly resolution 32/162]	12-16 February	Nairobi	58 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session every two years
32.	Executive Board of WFP, first regular session [Economic and Social Council decision 1995/227 and General Assembly resolution 50/8]	12-16 February	Rome	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
33.	Preparatory Committee for the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development, second substantive session [General Assembly resolution 54/279]	12-23 February	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
34.	Commission on Human Rights, open-ended working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment [Economic and Social Council decision 2000/262]	12-23 February	Geneva	53 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
35.	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, thirty-eighth session [General Assembly resolution 1472 A (XIV)]	12-23 February	Vienna	61 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
36.	Commission for Social Development, thirty-ninth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 10 (II), 1139 (XLI) and 1996/7]	13-23 February	New York	46 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year

	Organ	Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]			Periodicity
37.	Commission for Social Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing [General Assembly resolution 54/262]	13-23 February	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
38.	Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), second substantive session [General Assembly resolution 53/180]	19-23 February	Nairobi	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
39.	Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child [General Assembly resolution 44/25]	26 February	New York	191 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	One session every two years
40.	Commission on Sustainable Development, Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development [General Assembly resolution S-19/2]	26 February-2 March	New York	53 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
41.	UNCTAD, Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities [Trade and Development Board decision at its thirteenth executive session (8 July 1996) and General Assembly resolution 51/167]	26 February-2 March	Geneva	[c]	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
42.	UNCITRAL, Working Group on Electronic Commerce, thirty-eighth session [General Assembly resolution 2928 (XXVII)]	26 February-9 March	New York	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	Two sessions per year
43.	Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on Structural Adjustment [Economic and Social Council decision 2000/221]	February (2 weeks)	Geneva	53 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
44.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East [Economic and Social Council resolution 1776 (LIV)]	February (1 week)	A capital in the region	23 G	I (AER)	T	–	One session per year
45.	United Nations Latin American and Caribbean meeting on the question of Palestine [General Assembly resolution 54/40]	February (3 days)	To be determined	To be determined	I (EFS)	T	–	
46.	Investments Committee [General Assembly resolution 248 (III)]	February (2 days)	New York	11-12 E	–	–	–	Four or five meetings per year
47.	Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women, forty-first session [General Assembly resolutions 31/133 and 39/125]	February	New York	5 G	–	–	–	One session per year

Organ		*Date (2001)*	*Location*	*Membership*	*Servicing*[a]			*Periodicity*
48.	UNCTAD, Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting [Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/67]	February	Geneva	34 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
49.	Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI)]	February/March	New York	25 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR[f]	
50.	Committee for the United Nations Population Award [General Assembly resolution 36/201]	February/April (2 days)	New York	10 G	I (EFS)	T	–	One session per year
51.	Statistical Commission, thirty-second session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) and 1566 (L)]	6-9 March	New York	24 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
52.	General Assembly, Fifth Committee, resumed fifty-fifth session [Charter]	6-23 March or 12-30 March	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	
53.	Commission on the Status of Women, forty-fifth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 11 (II), 1147 (XLI), 1987/21 and decision 1999/257]	6-16 March	New York	45 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
54.	Commission on Sustainable Development, inter-sessional ad hoc open-ended working groups [Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/63]	6-16 March	New York	53 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
55.	Human Rights Committee, Working Group on Communications [General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI)]	12-16 March	New York	9 E	I (EFRS)	T	–	Three sessions per year
56.	Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, third session [General Assembly resolution 54/54 V]	19-30 March	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR[b]	
57.	Human Rights Committee, seventy-first session [General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI)]	19 March-6 April	New York	18 E	I (AEFRS)	T	SR	Three sessions per year
58.	Commission on Human Rights, fifty-seventh session [Economic and Social Council resolution 9 (II)]	19 March-27 April	Geneva	53 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	One session per year
59.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, forty-fourth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 9 (I) and 1991/39]	20-29 March	Vienna	53 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
60.	Committee of the Whole of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs [Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/39]	20-29 March (4 days)	Vienna	53 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
61.	UNCITRAL, Working Group on Insolvency Law, twenty-fourth session [General Assembly resolution 33/92]	26 March-6 April	New York	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	Two sessions per year

Organ		Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]			Periodicity
62.	Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations [General Assembly resolution 40/131]	28-30 March	Geneva	5 E	I (EFRS)	T	–	One session per year
63.	Ad Hoc Group of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, twenty-fourth session [General Assembly resolution 49/86]	March/April (3 weeks)	Geneva	141 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
64.	UNITAR, Board of Trustees, thirty-ninth session [General Assembly resolutions 1934 (XVIII) and 47/227]	March (1 week)	Geneva	28 E	I (AEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
65.	United Nations Staff Pension Committee [General Assembly resolution 248 (III)]	March/April (1 meeting)	New York	12 E	–	–	–	Three sessions of one meeting each per year
66.	Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996	First quarter (2 weeks)	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
67.	Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia [General Assembly resolution 53/77 A]	First quarter (1 week)	New York	5 E	I (ER)	T	–	
68.	Advisory Group of the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People [General Assembly resolution 48/163]	2-5 April	Geneva	10 E	I (ES)	T	–	
69.	Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, second session [General Assembly resolution 54/235]	2-6 April	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
70.	Commission on Population and Development, thirty-fourth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 150 (VII), 87 (LVII) and 1995/55]	2-6 April	New York	47 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
71.	Committee for Development Policy, third session [Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46]	2-6 April	New York	24 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
72.	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Legal Subcommittee, fortieth session [General Assembly resolution 1472 (XIV)]	2-12 April	Vienna	61 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR[g]	One session per year
73.	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations [Economic and Social Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1296 (XLIV) and decisions 1995/304 and 1997/297]	9-12 April and 14-25 May	New York	19 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
74.	Commission on Sustainable Development, ninth session, and preparatory meeting for the tenth session [Economic and Social Council decision 1993/207]	16-27 April and 30 April-2 May	New York	53 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year

	Organ	Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]			Periodicity
75.	Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1273 (XLIII) and 1765 (LIV)]	23-27 April	New York	25 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session every two years
76.	Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, sixty-third session [Economic and Social Council decision 1998/255]	23-27 April	New York	5 E	I (AEFS)	T	–	
77.	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, fiftieth session [General Assembly resolution 913 (X)]	23-27 April	Vienna	21 G	I (CEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
78.	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, twenty-fourth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1982/33, 1985/17 and 1995/39]	23 April-11 May	Geneva	18 E	I (AEFRS)	T	SR	Two sessions per year
79.	Committee on Information, twenty-third session [General Assembly resolution 33/115 C]	30 April-11 May	New York	95 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
80.	Preparatory Committee for the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development, third substantive session [General Assembly resolution 54/279]	30 April-11 May	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
81.	Committee against Torture, twenty-sixth session [General Assembly resolution 39/46 A]	30 April-18 May	Geneva	10 E	I (EFRS)	T	SR	Two sessions per year
82.	Disarmament Commission [General Assembly resolution S-10/2]	April (3 weeks)	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	PV	One session per year
83.	ICSC, fifty-third session [General Assembly resolution 3357 (XXIX)]	April (2 weeks)	New York	15 E	I (EFRS)	T	–	Two sessions per year
84.	ESCAP, fifty-seventh session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 37 (IV), 69 (V) and 723 B (XXVIII)]	April (7 days)	Bangkok	51 G	I (CEFR)	T	–	One session per year
85.	United Nations African meeting on the question of Palestine [General Assembly resolution 54/40]	April (3 days)	To be determined	To be determined	I (AEF)	T	–	
86.	Administrative Committee on Coordination, first regular session [Economic and Social Council resolution 13 (III)]	April (2 days)	Nairobi	26 ST	I (EF)	T	–	Two sessions per year
87.	Committee for Programme and Coordination, organizational session [Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and General Assembly resolution 31/93]	April (1 day)	New York	34 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
88.	Commission on Sustainable Development, organizational session [Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/63]	April (1 day)	New York	53 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
89.	Economic and Social Council, special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions [General Assembly resolution 50/227]	April	New York	54 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	

	Organ	Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]			Periodicity
90.	ECA, Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, twentieth session [Economic and Social Council resolution 671 (XXV)]	April	Addis Ababa	53 G	I (AEF)	T	–	One session every two years
91.	ECA, twenty-fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, thirty-fourth session of the Commission [Economic and Social Council resolution 671 (XXV)]	April	Addis Ababa	53 G	I (AEF)	T	–	One session every two years
92.	ECE, fifty-sixth session [Economic and Social Council resolution 36 (IV)]	1-4 May	Geneva	55 G	I (EFR)	T	–	One session per year
93.	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions [General Assembly resolution 173 (II)]	1 May-13 July	New York	16 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	Three sessions per year
94.	Economic and Social Council, resumed organizational session [Charter]	3-4 May	New York	54 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	
95.	Second Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Ocean Affairs [General Assembly resolution 54/33]	7-11 May	New York	To be determined	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
96.	Meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea [General Assembly resolutions 37/66 and 49/28]	14-18 May	New York	131 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
97.	Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, thirtieth session [Economic and Social Council decision 2000/263]	14-18 May	Geneva	5 E	I (EFS)	T	–	
98.	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries [General Assembly resolutions 52/187 and 53/182]	14-20 May	Brussels	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
99.	General Assembly, Fifth Committee, resumed fifty-fifth session [Charter]	7 May-1 June	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	
100.	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, tenth session [Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/1]	8-17 May	Vienna	40 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
101.	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, parallel meetings for informal consultations and working groups [Economic and Social Council decision 1997/232]	8-17 May (12 meetings)	Vienna	40 G	I (ACEFRS)	T		
102.	Commission on Science and Technology for Development, fifth session [General Assembly resolution 46/235 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/75]	14-18 May	Geneva	33 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session every two years
103.	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Pre-sessional Working Group [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1982/33, 1985/17 and 1995/39]	14-18 May	Geneva	5 E	I (EFRS)	T	–	Two sessions per year

	Organ	Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]			Periodicity
104.	Commission on Human Rights, Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Minorities [Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/246]	14-18 May	Geneva	5 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
105.	Executive Board of WFP, second regular session [Economic and Social Council decision 1995/227 and General Assembly resolution 50/8]	14-18 May (if required)	Rome	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
106.	Conference on Disarmament, second part [General Assembly resolutions 1722 (XVI), S-10/2 and 34/83 L]	14 May-29 June	Geneva	61 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	PV	One session in three parts per year
107.	Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, ninth session [annex II, article 2 (5), of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea]	21-25 May	New York	21 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
108.	Executive Board of WFP, annual session [Economic and Social Council decision 1995/227 and General Assembly resolution 50/8]	21-25 May	Rome	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
109.	UNCITRAL, Working Group on Arbitration, thirty-fourth session [General Assembly resolution 33/92]	21 May-1 June	New York	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	Two sessions per year
110.	Commission on Human Rights acting as the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance [General Assembly resolution 52/111]	21 May-1 June[g]	Geneva	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
111.	Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, twentieth session [General Assembly resolution 36/151]	21 May-1 June	Geneva	5 E	I (EFS)	T	–	One session per year
112.	International Narcotics Control Board, seventy-first session [Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, article 11]	21 May-1 June	Vienna	13 E	I (AEFRS)	T	–	Two or three sessions per year
113.	UNFCCC, meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention [General Assembly resolution 54/222]	21 May-1 June	Bonn	179 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
114.	Committee on the Rights of the Child, twenty-seventh session [General Assembly resolutions 44/25, 47/112 and 49/211]	21 May-8 June	Geneva	10 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	Three sessions per year
115.	United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board — Committee of Actuaries [General Assembly resolution 1561 (XV), article XXIX]	29-31 May	New York	5 E	I (ER)	T	–	One session per year

Organ		Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]			Periodicity
116.	High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, twelfth session [General Assembly resolution 33/134]	29 May-1 June	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session every two years
117.	United Nations international meeting on the question of Palestine [General Assembly resolution 54/40]	May (3 days)	To be determined	To be determined	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
118.	Investments Committee [General Assembly resolution 248 (III)]	May (2 days)	New York	11-12 E	–	–	–	Four or five meetings per year
119.	ESCWA, Technical Committee [Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/26]	May/June (3 days)	Beirut	13 G	I (AEF)	T	–	One session every two years
120.	ESCWA, twenty-first session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV), 2089 (LXIII) and 1994/26]	May/June (2 days)	Beirut	13 G	I (AEF)	T	–	One session every two years
121.	UNICEF, Executive Board, annual session [General Assembly resolutions 57 (I) and 48/162]	4-8 June	New York	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
122.	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, twenty-fifth session [General Assembly resolutions 34/180 and 51/68]	4-22 June	New York	23 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	Two sessions per year
123.	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, forty-fourth session [General Assembly resolution 1472 A (XIV)]	6-15 June	Vienna	61 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	PV[b]	One session per year
124.	Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly in 2001 for Follow-up to the World Summit for Children, third substantive session [General Assembly resolution 54/93][c]	11-15 June	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
125.	Committee on the Rights of the Child, Pre-sessional Working Group [General Assembly resolutions 44/25, 47/112 and 49/211]	11-15 June	Geneva	5 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	Three sessions per year
126.	Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA, annual session [General Assembly resolutions 2029 (XX) and 48/162]	11-22 June	New York	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
127.	Committee on Contributions, sixty-first session [General Assembly resolution 14 (I) A]	11-29 June	New York	18 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
128.	UNCITRAL, thirty-fourth session [General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI)]	25 June-13 July	Vienna	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	One session per year
129.	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Pre-sessional Working Group [General Assembly resolutions 45/124, 47/94 and 51/68]	25-29 June	New York	4 E	I (EFS)	T	–	Two sessions per year
130.	United Nations Board of Auditors [General Assembly resolution 74 (I)]	27-29 June	New York	3 E	–	–	–	One session per year

	Organ	Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]		Periodicity
131.	Committee for Programme and Coordination, forty-first session [Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and General Assembly resolution 31/93]	June (4 weeks)	New York	34 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	– One session per year
132.	Commission on Human Rights, Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery [Economic and Social Council decision 16 (LVI)]	June (1 week)	Geneva	5 E	I (EFRS)	T	– One session per year
133.	Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, fifteenth session [Economic and Social Council decision 1993/283]	June (4 days)	Geneva	5 E	I (EF)	T	– Two sessions per year
134.	General Assembly, special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda [General Assembly resolution 53/180]	June (3 days)	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	PV
135.	United Nations seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people [General Assembly resolution 54/40]	June (3 days)	Amman	To be determined	I (AEF)	I	–
136.	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, organizational session [Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31]	June (1 day)	New York	19 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–
137.	Meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies [General Assembly resolutions 46/111 and 49/178]	June	Geneva	8 E	I (EFS)	T	– One session per year
138.	United Nations Administrative Tribunal [General Assembly resolution 351 A (IV)]	June/July (5 weeks)	Geneva	7 E	I (EF)	T	PV[f] Two sessions per year
139.	Ad Hoc Group of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, twenty-fifth session [General Assembly resolution 49/86]	June/July (3 weeks)	Geneva	141 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–
140.	Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI)]	June/July (6-8 meetings per week, up to 30 meetings)	New York	25 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR[f]
141.	Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters [General Assembly resolution 37/99 K]	June/July (4 days)	New York	20 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	– Two sessions per year
142.	Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean [General Assembly resolutions 2992 (XXVII) and 54/47]	June/July	New York	44 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR
143.	United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects [General Assembly resolutions 53/77 E and 54/54 V]	June/July	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR[b]

	Organ	Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]			Periodicity
144.	Human Rights Committee, Working Group on Communications [General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI)]	2-6 July	Geneva	9 E	I (EFRS)	T	–	Three sessions per year
145.	Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, nineteenth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/104 and 1999/65]	2-13 July	Geneva	23 G	I (CEFRS)	T	–	One or two sessions per year
146.	Economic and Social Council, substantive session [Charter]	2-27 July	Geneva	54 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	One session per year
147.	Human Rights Committee, seventy-second session [General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI)]	9-27 July	Geneva	18 E	I (AEFRS)	T	SR	Three sessions per year
148.	ICSC, fifty-fourth session [General Assembly resolution 3357 (XXIX)]	16 July-3 August	New York	15 E	I (EFRS)	T	–	Two sessions per year
149.	Commission on Human Rights, Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Indigenous Populations [Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/34]	23-27 July	Geneva	5 E	I (CEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
150.	Commission on Human Rights, Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, fifty-third session [Economic and Social Council resolution 9 (II)]	30 July-17 August	Geneva	26 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	One session per year
151.	Conference on Disarmament, third part [General Assembly resolutions 1722 (XVI), S-10/2 and 34/83 L]	30 July-14 September	Geneva	61 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	PV	One session in three parts per year
152.	United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, Standing Committee [General Assembly resolution 248 (III)]	July (1 week)	New York	15 E	I (EF)	T	–	One session every two years
153.	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, extraordinary session [Economic and Social Council decision 1999/287]	13-31 August	Geneva	18 E	I (AEFRS)	T	SR	
154.	Commission on Human Rights, Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Communications [Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII)]	20-31 August	Geneva	5 E	I (CEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
155.	Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, tenth session [annex II, article 2 (5), of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea]	27-31 August	New York	21 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
156.	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, fifty-ninth session [General Assembly resolution 2106 A XX)]	August (3 weeks)	Geneva	18 E	I (CEFRS)	T	SR	Two sessions per year

	Organ	Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]			Periodicity
157.	United Nations North American meeting on the question of Palestine [General Assembly resolution 54/40]	August (3 days)	To be determined	To be determined	I (EF)	T	–	
158.	Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, sixty-fourth session [Economic and Social Council decision 1998/255]	August/September (1 week)	Geneva	5 E	I (AEFS)	T	–	
159.	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, pre-sessional working group, extraordinary session [Economic and Social Council decision 1999/287]	3-7 September	Geneva	5 E	I (EFRS)	T	–	
160.	UNICEF, Executive Board, second regular session [General Assembly resolutions 57 (I) and 48/162]	4-7 September	New York	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
161.	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions [General Assembly resolution 173 (II)]	4 September-21 December	New York	16 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	Three sessions per year
162.	Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA, second regular session [General Assembly resolutions 2029 (XX) and 48/162]	10-14 September	New York	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
163.	UNCTAD, Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, thirty-eighth session, first part [UNCTAD resolution 114 (V) and Trade and Development Board decision 156 (XVII)]	10-14 September	Geneva	[c]	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One or two sessions per year
164.	Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, thirty-first session [Economic and Social Council decision 2000/263]	10-14 September	Geneva	5 E	I (EFS)	T	–	
165.	Committee on the Rights of the Child, twenty-eighth session [General Assembly resolutions 44/25, 47/112 and 49/211]	17 September-5 October	Geneva	10 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	Three sessions per year
166.	General Assembly, special session in 200[1] for Follow-up to the World Summit for Children [General Assembly resolution 51/186]	September (3 Days)	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	PV	
167.	Investments Committee [General Assembly resolution 248 (III)]	September (2 days)	New York	11-12 E	–	–	–	Four or five meetings per year
168.	General Assembly, high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership [General Assembly resolution 53/181]	September (2 days)	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	PV	One session every two years
169.	UNRWA, Advisory Commission [General Assembly resolution 302 (IV)]	September (1 day)	Amman	10 G	I (AEF)	T	–	One session per year

Organ		Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]			Periodicity
170.	Ad Hoc Group of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, twenty-sixth session [General Assembly resolution 49/86]	September/ October (3 weeks)	Geneva	141 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
171.	United Nations Staff Pension Committee [General Assembly resolution 248 (III)]	September/ October (1 meeting)	New York	12 E	–	–	–	Three sessions of one meeting each per year
172.	General Assembly, fifty-sixth session [Charter]	September-December	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	PV/ SR[b]	
173.	UNCITRAL, Working Group on Arbitration, thirty-fifth session [General Assembly resolution 33/92]	Third quarter (2 weeks)	Vienna	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	Two sessions per year
174.	Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia [General Assembly resolution 53/77 A]	Third quarter (1 week)	New York	5 E	I (ER)	T	–	
175.	UNCTAD, Trade and Development Board, forty-eighth session [General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) and UNCTAD resolution 114 (V)]	1-12 October	Geneva	[c]	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
176.	Human Rights Committee, Working Group on Communications [General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI)]	8-12 October	Geneva	9 E	I (EFRS)	T	–	Three sessions per year
177.	Committee on the Rights of the Child, Pre-sessional Working Group [General Assembly resolutions 44/25, 47/112 and 49/211]	8-12 October	Geneva	5 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	Three sessions per year
178.	Human Rights Committee, seventy-third session [General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI)]	15 October-2 November	Geneva	18 E	I (AEFRS)	T	SR	Three sessions per year
179.	Executive Board of WFP, third regular session [Economic and Social Council decision 1995/227 and General Assembly resolution 50/8]	22-26 October	Rome	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
180.	UNFCCC Conference of the Parties to the Convention, seventh session, and meetings of subsidiary bodies [General Assembly resolution 54/222]	29 October-9 November	Marrakesh	179 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
181.	International Narcotics Control Board, seventy-second session [Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, article 11]	29 October-15 November	Vienna	13 E	I (AEFRS)	T	–	Two or three sessions per year
182.	UNHCR, Executive Committee, fifty-second session [General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII)]	October (1 week)	Geneva	57 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	One session per year

	Organ	Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]			Periodicity
183.	Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, thirty-sixth session [General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX)]	October (2 days)	New York	25 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year
184.	Administrative Committee on Coordination, second regular session [Economic and Social Council resolution 13 (III)]	October/ November (2-3 days)	New York	26 ST	I (EF)	T	–	Two sessions per year
185.	United Nations Administrative Tribunal [General Assembly resolution 351 (IV)]	October/ November (5 weeks)	New York	7 E	I (EF)	T	PV[b]	Two sessions per year
186.	Committee against Torture, twenty-seventh session [General Assembly resolution 39/46 A]	12-23 November	Geneva	10 E	I (EFRS)	T	SR	Two sessions per year
187.	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, twenty-fifth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1982/33, 1985/17 and 1995/39]	12-30 November	Geneva	18 E	I (AEFRS)	T	SR	Two sessions per year
188.	Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, thirty-second session [Economic and Social Council decision 2000/263]	26 November-5 May	Geneva	5 E	I (EFS)	T	–	
189.	Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency [General Assembly resolutions 347 (IV) and 1438 (XIV)]	27 November-4 December	To be determined	9 E	I (EF)	–	–	One session per year
190.	Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment [General Assembly resolution 39/46 A]	28 November	Geneva	117 G	I (EFRS)	T	SR	One session every two years
191.	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Special Meeting in Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People [General Assembly resolutions 32/40 B and 33/28]	29 November	New York	25 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	PV	
192.	Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, sixteenth session [Economic and Social Council decision 1993/283]	November (3 days)	Geneva	5 E	I (EF)	T	–	Two sessions per year
193.	Consultations with civil society organizations on the question of Palestine [General Assembly resolution 54/40]	November (3 days)	Geneva	To be determined	I (AEF)	T	–	
194.	Investments Committee [General Assembly resolution 248 (III)]	November (2 days)	New York	11-12 E	–	–	–	Four or five meetings per year
195.	United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities [General Assembly resolution 32/197]	November (1 day)	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	

	Organ	Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]			Periodicity
196.	Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East [General Assembly resolution 1729 (XVI)]	November (1 meeting)	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One meeting per year
197.	Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [General Assembly resolution 1729 (XVI)]	November (1 meeting)	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One meeting per year
198.	Ad Hoc Group of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, twenty-seventh session [General Assembly resolution 49/86]	November/ December (3 weeks)	Geneva	141 G	I (ACEFRS)	T		
199.	Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, sixty-fifth session [Economic and Social Council decision 1998/255]	November/ December (1 week)	Geneva	5 E	I (AEFS)	T	–	
200.	UNDP, Inter-Agency Consultative Meeting [General Assembly resolution 32/197]	November/ December (3 days)	New York	33 SI	–	–	–	
201.	Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, fifth session, and meetings of subsidiary bodies [General Assembly resolution 54/223]	November/ December	Bonn	157 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
202.	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Pre-sessional Working Group [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1982/33, 1985/17 and 1995/39]	3-7 December	Geneva	5 E	I (EFRS)	T	–	Two sessions per year
203.	Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, twentieth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/104 and 1999/65]	3-14 December	Geneva	22 G	I (CEFRS)	T	–	One or two sessions per year
204.	United Nations Board of Auditors, special session [General Assembly resolution 74 (I)]	5 December	To be determined	3 E	–	–	–	
205.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, resumed forty-fourth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 9 (I) and 1991/39]	5-7 December	Vienna	53 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session every two years
206.	UNU, Council, forty-eighth session [General Assembly resolution 3081 (XXVIII)]	December (1 week)	Tokyo	28 E	I (EF)	T	–	One session per year
207.	Disarmament Commission, organizational session [General Assembly resolution S-10/2]	December (2 days)	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	PV	One session per year

	Organ	Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]		Periodicity	
208.	UNICEF, Executive Board, extraordinary budgetary session [Executive Board decision 2000/7]	December (2-3 days)	New York	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	PV	One session every two years
209.	UNCITRAL, Working Group on Insolvency Law, twenty-fifth session [General Assembly resolution 33/92]	Fourth quarter (2 weeks)	Vienna	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	Two sessions per year
210.	UNCITRAL, Working Group on Electronic Commerce, thirty-ninth session [General Assembly resolution 2928 (XXVII)]	Fourth quarter (2 weeks)	Vienna	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	Two sessions per year
211.	UNCTAD, other commodity conferences and commodity meetings [Trade and Development Board decision at its thirteenth executive session (8 July 1996) and General Assembly resolution 51/167]	As required (up to 30 meetings)	Geneva	[c]	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	As required
212.	UNCTAD, seminars and study groups [Trade and Development Board decision at its thirteenth executive session (8 July 1996) and General Assembly resolution 51/167]	As required (up to 30 meetings)	Geneva	[c]	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	As required
213.	UNCTAD, consultations of the Secretary-General and of the President of the Trade and Development Board [Trade and Development Board decision at its thirteenth executive session (8 July 1996) and General Assembly resolution 51/167]	As required (up to 20 meetings)	Geneva	[c]	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	As required
214.	UNCTAD, executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board [Trade and Development Board decision at its thirteenth executive session (8 July 1996) and General Assembly resolution 51/167]	As required (3 days)	Geneva	[c]	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	As required
215.	Trusteeship Council (and drafting committees) [Charter]	As required	New York	5 G	I (CEFR)	T	PV[f]	As required
216.	Security Council [Charter]	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	PV	As required
217.	Security Council Committee of Experts [decision taken by the Security Council at its first meeting, 1946]	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
218.	Security Council, Committee on the Admission of New Members [decision taken by the Security Council at its 42nd meeting, 1946]	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
219.	Security Council, Committee on Council Meetings away from Headquarters [decision taken by the Security Council at its 1625th meeting]	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
220.	Security Council Commission established under Security Council resolution 446 (1979)	As required	New York	3 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required

	Organ	Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]			Periodicity
221.	Security Council, Ad Hoc Committee established under Security Council resolution 507 (1982)	As required	New York	4 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
222.	Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
223.	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 748 (1992) concerning the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
224.	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
225.	Security Council, Ad Hoc Commission established under Council resolution 794 (1992)	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
226.	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning Angola	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
227.	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994) concerning Rwanda	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
228.	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) concerning Liberia	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
229.	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
230.	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1160 (1998)	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
231.	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Afghanistan	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
232.	Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1298 (2000) concerning the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia	As required	New York	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
233.	Security Council, Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission established pursuant to Security Council resolution 687 (1991)	As required	Geneva	15 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required
234.	United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine [General Assembly resolution 194 (III)]	As required	New York	3 G	I (EF)	T	–	As required
235.	Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group [General Assembly resolution 2006 (XIX)]	As required	New York	To be determined	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	As required
236.	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People [General Assembly resolution 3376 (XXX)]	As required	New York	25 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	As required

Organ		*Date (2001)*	*Location*	*Membership*	*Servicing*[a]			*Periodicity*
237.	Committee on Conferences [General Assembly resolution 43/222 B]	As required	New York	21 G	I (AEFRS)	T	–	As required
238.	Committee on Relations with the Host Country [General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI)]	As required	New York	19 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	As required
239.	Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA, briefings and informal consultations [General Assembly resolutions 2020 (XX) and 48/162]	As required	New York	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	As required
240.	UNICEF, Executive Board, briefings and informal consultations [General Assembly resolutions 57 (I) and 48/162]	As required	New York	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	As required
241.	ECE, committees and working groups [Economic and Social Council resolution 36 (IV)]	As required	Geneva	55 G	To be determined	T	–	
242.	International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 [Security Council resolution 808 (1993) and General Assembly resolution 47/235]	As required	The Hague	11 E	I (EF)	T	–	As required
243.	International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 [Security Council resolution 955 (1994)]	As required	Arusha	11 E	I (EF)	T	–	As required
244.	International Law Commission, fifty-third session [General Assembly resolution 174 (II)]	To be determined (12 weeks)	Geneva	34 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	SR	One session per year
245.	Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction [final declaration of the Special Conference of the States Parties]	To be determined (3 weeks)	Geneva	141 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
246.	International Law Seminar [General Assembly resolution 49/51]	To be determined (3 weeks)	Geneva	30 E	I (EFS)	–	–	One session per year
247.	Special Conference of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention in connection with a protocol on verification measures [final declaration of the Special Conference of the States Parties]	To be determined (2 weeks)	Geneva	141 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
248.	Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues [Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/22]	To be determined (2 weeks)	Geneva	16 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	One session per year

Organ		*Date (2001)*	*Location*	*Membership*	*Servicing[a]*			*Periodicity*
249.	World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance [General Assembly resolution 52/111]	To be determined (1 week)	Geneva	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
250.	Preparatory Committee of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention in connection with a protocol on verification measures [final declaration of the Special Conference of the States Parties]	To be determined (1 week)	Geneva	141 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
251.	Preparatory Committee of the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction [final declaration of the Special Conference of the States Parties]	To be determined (1 week)	Geneva	141 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
252.	Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction [article 11, paragraph 2, of the Convention]	To be determined (1 week)	Geneva	83 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
253.	Commission on Human Rights, expert meeting on the use of mercenaries [General Assembly resolution 54/151]	To be determined (1 week)	Geneva	10 E	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
254.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, European region [Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/36]	To be determined (1 week)	Vienna	55 G	I (EFRS)	T	–	One session every three years
255.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Asia and the Pacific region [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1985/11 and 1988/15]	To be determined (1 week)	Bangkok	51 G	I (CEFR)	T	–	
256.	INSTRAW, Board of Trustees, twenty-first session [General Assembly resolutions 33/187 and 34/157]	To be determined (1 week)	Santo Domingo	11 E	I (EFS)	T	–	One session per year
257.	UNCTAD, meeting of governmental experts from landlocked and transit developing countries and representatives of donor countries and financial and development institutions [General Assembly resolution 54/199]	To be determined (4 days)	Geneva	To be determined	I (ACEFRS)	T	–	
258.	ECLAC, Committee of the Whole, twenty-sixth session [Economic and Social Council resolution 106 (VI)]	To be determined (2 days)	Santiago	41 G	I (EFS)	T	–	One session every two years
259.	Expert group on Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status [General Assembly resolution 53/77 D]	To be determined	New York	10 E	To be determined	T	–	
260.	Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development [General Assembly resolution 46/151]	To be determined	New York	To be determined	I (EF)	T	–	

	Organ	Date (2001)	Location	Membership	Servicing[a]		Periodicity
261.	High-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development [General Assembly resolution 54/196]	To be determined	New York	193 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–
262.	Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa [General Assembly resolution 54/234]	To be determined	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–
263.	Preparatory Committee of the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects [final declaration of the First Review Conference]	To be determined	Geneva	100 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–
264.	Second Review Conference of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects [final declaration of the First Review Conference]	To be determined	Geneva	100 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–
265.	Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects [article 13, paragraph 1, of Amended Protocol]	To be determined	Geneva	28 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–
266.	UNCTAD, meetings of experts [Trade and Development Board decision at its thirteenth executive session (8 July 1996) and General Assembly resolution 51/167]	To be determined	Geneva	To be determined	I (ACEFRS)	T	–
267.	UNEP, High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials [Governing Council decision 19/1 B]	To be determined	Nairobi	36 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	–
268.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean region [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/34 and 1988/15]	To be determined	Santiago	41 G	I (EFS)	T	–
269.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, African region [Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/11]	To be determined	Addis Ababa	53 G	I (AEF)	T	–

Organ		*Date (2001)*	*Location*	*Membership*	*Servicing*[a]			*Periodicity*
270.	General meeting on cooperation between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations [General Assembly resolutions 45/82 and 50/16]	To be determined	To be determined	27 ST	I (AEF)	T	–	One session every two years

[a] The languages in which interpretation will be provided are indicated. Languages in which translation and meeting records will be provided vary according to the rules of procedure applicable to the body concerned, and in the case of some working groups and similar bodies, according to the actual requirements when these are less than would be provided under the rules of procedure.

[b] For only those meetings at which decisions will be taken.

[c] Subject to approval by the Economic and Social Council.

[d] Subject to approval by the General Assembly.

[e] Open to the participation of all interested States members of UNCTAD (UNCTAD resolution 80 (III), para. 9).

[f] For plenary meetings only.

[g] Includes one week extension subject to General Assembly approval.

[h] The General Assembly, in paragraph 8 of its resolution 53/45, noted with satisfaction that in accordance with paragraph 9 of Assembly resolution 52/56, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its forty-first session, had reviewed further its requirements for unedited verbatim transcripts and agreed to continue the use of those transcripts.

[i] When holding oral hearings.

[j] It has been the practice to provide verbatim records for plenary and First Committee meetings only.

B. List of bodies whose mandates are to be presented for renewal to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session

Organ	*Dates (2000)*	*Location*	*Membership*	*Servicing*[a]		*Periodicity*
1. Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [General Assembly resolution 3349 (XXIX)]	To be determined	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	-
2. Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East [General Assembly resolution 2656 (XXV)]	To be determined	New York	9 G	I (EF)	T	-
3. Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council [General Assembly resolution 48/26]	To be determined	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	-
4. Informal Open-ended Working Group on An Agenda for Peace and/or its sub-groups [General Assembly resolution 47/120]	To be determined	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	-
5. High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations [General Assembly resolution 49/143]	To be determined	New York	188 G	I (ACEFRS)	T	-
6. Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories [General Assembly resolution 2443 (XXIII)]	To be determined	Geneva	3 G	I (AEF)	T	PV[b]
7. Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court [General Assembly resolution 54/105]	To be determined	New York	To be determined	I (ACEFRS)	T	-

[a] The languages in which interpretation will be provided are indicated. Languages in which translation and meeting records will be provided vary according to the rules of procedure applicable to the body concerned and, in the case of some working groups and similar bodies, according to the actual requirements when these are less than would be provided under the rules of procedure.

[b] When holding oral hearings.

C. Draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the principal organs of the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and treaty bodies established under the auspices of the United Nations, 2001

	Organ	*Dates (2001)*	*Location*
1.	ICAO, Committee, one hundred and sixty-second session	15 January-2 February	Montreal
2.	IAEA, Board of Governors, Programme and Budget Committee	22 January	Vienna
3.	WHO, Executive Board, one hundred and seventh session	January/February	Geneva
4.	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group B and informal/expert meetings/on-site inspection	5-16 February	Vienna
5.	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group B and Informal/Expert Meetings	19 February-2 March	Vienna
6.	ICAO, Council, one hundred and sixty-second session	19 February-16 March	Montreal
7.	IFAD, Governing Council	20-21 February	Rome
8.	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group A and informal/expert meetings	5-9 March	Vienna
9.	ILO, Governing Body and its committees, two hundred and eightieth session	8-30 March	Geneva
10.	IAEA, Board of Governors	19 March	Vienna
11.	UNIDO, Programme and Budget Committee, seventeenth session	2-4 April	Vienna
12.	ICAO, Committee, one hundred and sixty-third session	17 April-4 May	Montreal
13.	IFAD, Executive Board	25-26 April	Rome
14.	IAEA, Board of Governors, Programme and Budget Committee	7 May	Vienna
15.	Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	14-18 May	The Hague
16.	WHO, World Health Assembly, fifty-fourth session	14-23 May	Geneva
17.	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, fourteenth session	22-25 May	Vienna
18.	ICAO, Council, one hundred and sixty-third session	22 May-22 June	Montreal
19.	FAO, Committee on World Food Security	28-31 May	Rome
20.	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group B and informal/expert meetings/on-site inspection	28 May-8 June	Vienna
21.	UPU, Postal Operations Council	May	Berne
22.	WMO, Executive Council, fifty-third session	May	Geneva

	Organ	*Dates (2001)*	*Location*
23.	WHO, Executive Board, one hundred and eighth session	May/June	Geneva
24.	UNESCO, Executive Board, one hundred and sixty-first session	May/June	Paris
25.	ILO, General Conference, eighty-ninth session	5-21 June	Geneva
26.	IAEA, Board of Governors	11 June	Vienna
27.	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group B and informal/expert meetings	11-22 June	Vienna
28.	UNIDO, Industrial Development Board, twenty-second session	18-22 June	Vienna
29.	FAO, Council, one hundred and twentieth session	18-23 June	Rome
30.	ILO, Governing Body and its committees, two hundred and eighty-first session	22 June	Geneva
31.	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group A and informal/expert meetings	25-29 June	Vienna
32.	ITU, Council	June (2 weeks)	Geneva
33.	IMO, Council, eighty-sixth session	June	London
34.	Assembly of the International Seabed Authority, seventh session	2-13 July	Kingston
35.	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, fifteenth session	21-24 August	Vienna
36.	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group B and informal/expert meetings	27 August-7 September	Vienna
37.	IAEA, Board of Governors	11-14 September	Vienna
38.	IFAD, Executive Board	12-13 September	Rome
39.	IAEA, General Conference	17-21 September	Vienna
40.	IAEA, Board of Governors	24 September	Vienna
41.	WIPO, Assemblies of Member States	September/October	Geneva
42.	IMF/World Bank, joint annual meetings of the Boards of Governors	September/October	Washington, D.C.
43.	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group A and informal/expert meetings	8-12 October	Vienna
44.	ICAO, Committee, one hundred and sixty-fourth session	8-26 October	Montreal
45.	FAO, World Food Day	16 October	Rome
46.	FAO, Council, one hundred and twenty-first session	30 October-1 November	Rome
47.	UPU, Postal Operations Council	October	Berne
48.	UNESCO, Executive Board, one hundred and sixty-second session	October	Paris
49.	UNESCO, General Conference, thirty-first session	October/November	Paris

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	Organ	*Dates (2001)*	*Location*
50.	ILO, Governing Body and its committees, two hundred and eighty-second session	1-16 November	Geneva
51.	FAO, Conference, thirty-first session	2-13 November	Rome
52.	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group B and informal/expert meetings/on-site inspection	5-16 November	Vienna
53.	ICAO, Council, one hundred and sixty-fourth session	13 November-7 December	Montreal
54.	FAO, Council, one hundred and twenty-second session	14 November	Rome
55.	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, sixteenth session	19-23 November	Vienna
56.	IAEA, Board of Governors, Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee	26 November or 10 December	Vienna
57.	IAEA, Board of Governors	29 November or 13December	Vienna
58.	IMO, Assembly, twenty-third session	November	London
59.	IMO, Council, eighty-seventh session	November	London
60.	UNIDO, General Conference, ninth session	3-7 December	Vienna
61.	IFAD, Executive Board	December	Rome

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